“Even though you may want to move forward in your life, you may have one foot on the brakes. In order to be free, we must learn how to let go. Release the hurt. Release the fear. Refuse to entertain your old pain. The energy it takes to hang onto the past is holding you back from a new life”

- Mary Manin Morrissey

**Holding onto pain**

**One day when I got home from school I was told by my parents to come into the living room. When I walked into the living room their faces looked very serious, I thought I was in trouble. Once I took a seat on the couch my dad started talking. He said my job is transferring me to Battle Creek, Michigan and we will be moving at the end of the school year. After hearing those words come out of my dad’s mouth I was speechless and a million things were running through my head. ‘I have to move, leave my friends, leave our family, go to a new school, and I will not have any friends.” As those things were running through my head I began to cry. I was devastated with pain that I had to move to Michigan and I did not want the day to come.**

**Once summer arrived we packed all of our belongings and we were off to Battle Creek, Michigan. When we got to our new home we unpacked and got all settled in. I was still devastated and had my mind set that I was not going to release my pain and give my new home a chance. I sat inside my new house almost every day wasting my summer away. Every day when my dad got home from work him and my mom would go for a walk around our neighborhood and every day they would ask me to go with them but I always said no. One day I decided to let my parents win and I accompanied them on their walk. As we were walking we came across a group of parents standing on the side of the road talking. They all said hello to us and joined us into their conversation. It turned out that they had kids my age and my parents encouraged me meet them. As I was meeting them I was very nervous like Jonny from The Sort Buss when he met new people, but that day changed my life forever. I became very close to the one girl and she made me feel like I was back home in Pennsylvania. She was a caring girl who helped me release my pain by always letting me be a part of things and I admired her for that. The feelings of being back at home made me connect with Jonny from The Shot Buss. Jonny felt like he was finding things out about himself as he traveled and meet new people that had similar problems as he has had. I think Jonny and me are alike because we both had to travel in order to find something new about ourselves.**

**One day I received a phone call from the girl and she asked me to babysit with her that night. I was not sure if I wanted to spend my night babysitting but I decide to go along with her. As we walked up to the house I began to feel nervous because I never babysat before. We played with the children the whole time until their parents came back home. I left with a smile on my face and I couldn’t wait to go back again. This was the moment were I saw my life turning around.**  From moving away to a place that I never thought I would fit in I found the courage to release my pain and accept a change into my life. From that I learned something new about myself that I love working with children and that it’s ok to let new experiences into your life.

**Holding onto fear**

Several years have passed and it was time for me to apply to college. I was living back in Pennsylvania by this time. When I applied to college I applied as an undeclared student because I let others influence what I always saw myself doing, teaching. I had fear of declaring education because a lot of people told me I was making a mistake. They told me I was making a mistake because right now education is not very demanding around the area I live. I feel that I can connect with Jonny from The Short Buss again. Jonny said several times throughout the book that he was not sure if he wanted to meet some people because he was afraid. I spent my first year of college taking different courses to see if there was something else I could picture myself doing. I could feel the fear in my body because I was so indecisive, one minute I wanted to go into business, and the next I wanted to go into communication. My mind was all over the place because I tried so hard to avoid declaring education because of others. I always had a fierce feeling which made be very upset with being undeclared and thought I was putting myself far behind taking different courses that had nothing to do with each other. One day I got so frustrated with being undeclared that I decided I was not going to let others influence my decision. I emailed the education director and the next week I had a meeting with him. As I sat in his office I couldn’t help but smile because it was that moment that I released all the fear running through my body. Being around children was something that I found to be very exciting. That day when I left the education directors office I was no long an undeclared student and my mind was filled with joy. In The Short Buss Jonny always ended up meeting the people he did not want to meet and after he met them he knew he made the right choice. I have been in the education program for one semester so far and I am completely in love with all of my education classes and with the choice that I have made.

**Release the pain, release the fear**

As I am sitting in my current education classes this semester I always catch myself looking into my future classroom. In my mind, educators get a great opportunity in life. That opportunity is having the privilege to educate someone and inspire them to do their best. On my first day of being a teacher I picture a classroom filled with children wondering who I am. I cannot wait to introduce myself to my first group of students by saying Good morning class my name is Miss Williams. I will always tell my class how important it is to follow your own dreams and to never be afraid to let go of your pain and fear because of what lies ahead of you. If you do not release your pain because of what comes next in your life, like I did when I moved to Michigan I would have never meet the girl who changed my life. Also if you do not follow your own dreams you could end up feeling fear like I did during my first year of college. Becoming a teacher is very powerful because you are able to impact many children in your career and that is why I want to become a teacher.